

Bishop Applauds House Passage of Unemployment Insurance Extension, Calls for Additional Benefits

Washington, DC -- During his second day on the job, Congressman Timothy Bishop (NY-1) voted to approve a 13-week extension of federal unemployment benefits to bring much needed relief to Long Island workers who have exhausted their regular 26-week benefits. President Bush signed the bill into law late Wednesday, in time to protect workers whose benefits expired on December 28th from a disruption in the receipt of their benefits. This bill promises to help the nearly 800,000 people who lost their benefits on December 28th, and to support the estimated 90,000 additional workers who will exhaust their regular unemployment benefits each week. Although the bill goes a long way towards helping workers down on their luck during this economic downturn, it does not go far enough.

I applaud today's House vote to extend unemployment benefits and to provide much needed support to New York workers." said Bishop. "I was proud to cast one of my first votes in Congress to bring relief to hardworking New York families. Extending unemployment insurance will provide a positive boost to our struggling economy. In the coming weeks I will urge my colleagues to do the right thing and to provide even greater relief to struggling workers and their."

Today Congressman Bishop also voted for a motion to recommit in support of the Democratic plan introduced by Representatives Rangel and Cardin. The Democratic proposal would provide an additional 13-weeks of federal unemployment insurance assistance to workers who have exhausted their first 13-week extension in addition to their regular 26-week benefit. Congressman Bishop calls for the House to do the right thing and take this additional step in order to help an estimated 1 million workers who are still unemployed after exhausting their first extension of benefits.

Congressman Bishop has spoken with unemployed workers from across the district, and he knows the difficult toil this economic downturn has taken on so many families in New York and nationwide. Congressman Bishop will work to see that Long Island's working families remain a priority for the 108th Congress.